



THE LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

Population growth and educational development are closely interrelated. Population growth leads to an increase in number of persons for whom education facilities have to be provided. On the other hand, educational development affects population trends through promotion of increased acceptance of family planning measures by the adults, and delay in age at marriage. The analysis of population growth is an important element to the understanding the level of educational development in Himachal Pradesh. The present study attempts to study the Population growth and educational development in Himachal Pradesh. The study is mainly based on the secondary data collected from Directorate of Census Operations and directorate of education Himachal Pradesh. The peculiar topographical characteristics of the state resulted into great spatial variation in population growth and educational development in Himachal Pradesh. The study reveals that Himachal Pradesh has a better penetration of higher education compared to national average, where the decadal growth rate of population was below the state average.

KEY WORDS: Population Growth, Educational Institutions, Enrollment, Teachers ratio, Himachal Pradesh, India.

INTRODUCTION

Population growth and educational development are closely interrelated. Population growth leads to an increase in number of persons for whom education facilities have to be provided. On the other hand, educational development affects population trends through promotion of increased acceptance of family planning measures by the adults, and delay in age at marriage. In other words, educational development of a country, as measured by its literacy rate and school enrollment ratio, is found to be associated with certain demographic characteristics. It is shown that those countries most advanced educationally tend to have lower rates of population growth. Least advanced educationally are observed to have higher rates of population growth; their growth rates, already high, are tending to rise further. Countries at intermediate levels of educational development also show inter-mediate characteristics of population growth.

The Himachal Pradesh on which present study is focused too has come to witness a rapid growth of its population since 1971; the year state was recognized as full-fledged state of India. Within a span of forty years the population of the state has more than doubled. However, it is heartening to note that during these years; the state has also made remarkable strides on socio-economic front leading the state to figure its name among the best performing states in demographic evolution and educational development pattern. It is against this backdrop that this study aims to examine the nature of population growth and educational development in the state.

Aims and Objectives

- To understand the nature and magnitude of trend in population growth.
- To trace the progress of educational level in the state.
- To identify the core areas with enrollment either very high or very low at the district level.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study is entirely based on the secondary data obtained from various published and unpublished sources. The data relating to the population size and educational development for the two census years i.e. 2001 and 2011, Himachal Statistical handbook and Education Department Himachal Pradesh. District wise the basic geographical unit for the present study. The population growth and educational development has been dealt with in both absolute and percentage terms. To keep the description simple, bar diagram and tables has been used to study. Study Area: Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is located between 30° 22' to 33° 12' North latitude and 75° 47' to 79° 4' East longitudes. The territory of Himachal is mountainous in nature with altitude varying from 300 meters to nearly 7000 meters. It covers a geographical area of 55,673 sq km, which constitutes about 1.69 percent of the total geographical area of India. Physiologically the state can be divided into two major regions, south western and north eastern (Chauhan, 1998). Administratively Himachal Pradesh is divided into 12 districts. During the decade under study there have been no jurisdictional changes in the territorial limits of Himachal Pradesh, either at inter-state or inter district level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Population growth and Educational Development

The educational development of a state is conditioned by many historical, cultural, and socioeconomic factors. A factor of major importance is the rate of population growth. Educational development and Population growth are closely interrelated. Himachal Pradesh has made significant progress in education at all levels during the past decades. Currently, 6,83,300 students are attending the primary schools and 15,63,900 students are attending the secondary schools (lower secondary and secondary together). Universal primary education, that is enrollment of all 6-10 years old children in primary schools, is the long-term goal of the government. The Education for All - Plan of Action has set the target of attaining universal primary education. Secondary education has also expanded rapidly, as a result of efforts of the government to provide access to secondary education and also due to increased public demand for this level of education. There is now a countrywide network of higher secondary schools, all of functioning under both government and private management. As of 2012, Himachal Pradesh has around 1.8 lacks students enrolled in higher education across streams. While Himachal Pradesh has a better penetration of higher education compared to national average.

There is a growing need to develop the level of vocational and technical education being provided in the state to facilitate growth of the state economy. 104 vocational training providers have been registered under Skill Development Initiative Scheme at present, out of which 65 are government ITIs and remaining 39 are private. A total of 15,384 candidates have been trained under this scheme while 2,230 are still under training. 25 senior secondary schools of the state have an ongoing Vocational Education Programme. The state's decadal rate of population growth during 2001-2011 has 12.94. This is considered to be relatively high growth rate of population. The population growth exerts continuing pressure on provision of primary education in the short term and on provision of other levels of education in course of time.

Such rapid population growth as did the twentieth century. From an estimated 19,20,294 inhabitants in 1901, the state population rose to 19,20,294 at the end of the century, with most of the increase occurring after 1941. In 1941, (diagram. 1) shows the steep downward population growth in this century 11.54, and 5.42% in 1951. This rapid decline was propelled by dramatic increase in mortality, especially in the rural areas.

It is clearly seen in the diagram that except for a marginal increase at the 1981 census there has been a continuous downward trend in the decadal growth rate being the lowest (12.94 percent) at the 2011 census. The trend in the decadal growth rate of population has been slightly different here. There was a continuous rise until 1981 and thereafter there has been a continuous decline until recent decade. The reason for decline population growth rate from 1981 was also clearly raising the standard of education and awareness along with family planning.

PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

Primary Education

The growth in number of schools and enrollment continued during the intercensal period 2002-2013. As reported in the School Level Educational Sta-

tistics of Himachal Pradesh, the expansion of primary schools reached 10,739 in the year 2013; and enrollment students reached 3, 80,700 in that year. The data in (Table. 1) shows that most of the children of school going age are already on the rolls in schools of the state. Himachal Pradesh has a much higher enrollment rate than the national average and Punjab and Haryana. The percentage of 6-11 and 11-14 age groups in Himachal Pradesh has in fact increased even more in 2013 to 107.5 thousand and 106.2 thousand respectively. DPEP also acted as a catalytic agent in speeding up the enrollment rates in Himachal Pradesh. Mid-day meal scheme also seems to have created a real impact in terms of children attending schools.

There has been a steady increase in the participation of girls in primary education. Girl students as proportion of total primary enrollment increased from 49.3% in 2002 to 50.52% in 2013. Special measures such as provision of scholarships for girl students in specified districts, and appointment of female teachers have contributed towards this increase in girl's participation. While the teachers in educational institution continuously decrease since 2009 was 27181 to 25239 in 2013. The teacher pupils ratio in Himachal Pradesh at primary level was 1:15 which is less than to higher education level. Gross Enrollment Ratios have exceeded 100% because of presence of "underaged" and "overaged" children in primary classes. Currently, Net Enrollment Ratio is 81.1%. This implies that about 19% of children in 6-10 years age group are still out of school (primary level). It is observed that most of the unschooled children belong to the disadvantaged groups, communities in remote areas and families in extreme poverty.

Middle Education

There has been a significant increase in number of middle schools and also in the enrollments of the respective levels. The number of middle schools went up from 1,814 in 2002 to 2,317 in 2013. The enrollment decrease from 407.7 thousand in 2013 to 262.8 thousand in 2013 indicating an annual decrease of 55.15 % over the period 2002-2013 (Table 2). The number of middle schools reached 2,317 in 2013, which is nearly double the number in 2002. The increase of middle level enrollment can be explained by factors such as the demand for education created by an expanding primary education system, social pressure for gaining more education at upper levels, and the waiving of tuition fees in the public schools at middle levels.

The percentage of girls at the enrollment of the middle level was 47.83% in 2002 and 49.61% in 2013. Over the years from 2002 to 2013, some increment in the percentage of girl students at the middle levels has occurred. A large number of middle schools have been approved with a view to increase, for the boys as well as the girls, the access to middle education. While the teachers in middle education institutions were continuously decreased since the study period, which was 25441 in 2002 and 21003 in 2012. The teacher pupils ratio of middle schools was 1:29 in 2013. This ratio indicates the higher than primary teacher's ratio.

Higher Education

Higher education is provided by a diverse set of institutions such as the Public schools, Private schools, Colleges, Universities and specific Plus Two schools. A large number of higher schools have been established in recent years. The number of such school reached 2,126 in 2013 from 1,524 in 2002. The expansion of higher educational institutional also like; Colleges of General (68), Universities (5), Medical Colleges (3), B.ed College (4), Sanskrit Institutions (15), Teachers Training Schools (JBT) (12) and Engineering College (4) was went up from 2002-2013. (Table 1).

The enrollment of student grew in higher schools from 362.8 thousand in 2002 to 406.3 thousand in 2013 indicating an annual increase of 10.7% over the period 2002-2013. Data shows that the enrollment of girl's in higher education level was continuously grew from 46.02 in 2002 and 49.23 in 2013. The teachers and pupil ratio in higher schools was 1:14 and 1:38 at the college level in 2013. The absolute number of teachers in high schools increased from 26,854 in 2002 to 28,641 in 2013. Following a rapid growth of schools, students and teachers, due to the rapid growth of population which explains their relatively demand.

DISTRIBUTION OF ENROLLMENTS

At the district level, enrollment of the student varied between primary and secondary level. Thus there were 11, 23,600 students enrolled in primary level, upper primary and higher level. From diagram it becomes very clear that the enrollment varied considerably from one district of the state to another. There were five districts out of the state, where the highest enrollment was more than one lack namely Kangra, Shimla, Mandi, Sirmour and Chamba. These districts experienced high growth of population due largely to the role of migration from surrounding rural areas due to availability of high employment opportunities, better living conditions, educational facilities and development activities in these areas.

Unlike the enrollment of the more than 50 thousand to one lack recorded in five districts viz, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Una, Solan and Kullu. As is visible in the (diagram.2) these districts covered the large part of the state. It is needless to say that area that experienced the moderate growth rate was those where moderate conditions with respect to the three processes of population change i.e. fertility, mortality and migration prevailing thus giving rise to moderate enrollment.

In two districts viz. Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti, there was lowest enrollment in the state which varied between as great as 4,500 enrollments in Lahaul & Spiti and 11,500 Kinnaur district. One characteristic feature that was common to in these districts was that both of them were located in the tribal area of the state and both of them shared harsh topographic and climatic conditions. Due to difficult life conditions in these areas, the propensity to out-migrate must be very high among the inhabitants of these areas. Secondly, the very small size of population of these districts also have contributed to the apparent decline because even a small shift of the population will make a difference as to whether there is going to be very small enrollment in these districts. Remaining three districts of the state recorded the less than 29 thousand enrollments in the primary level. The study revealed that the very small size enrollment have contributed to the apparent decline because even a small shift of the population will make a difference as to whether there if going to be growth or decline in the population.

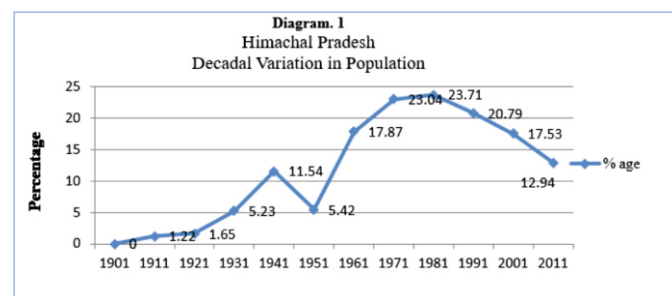
The enrollment in upper primary level has recorded the 2, 80,900 students in the state. At the districts level the highest enrollment in upper primary level recorded the Kangra district and lowest enrollment in the Lahaul & Spiti of the state. In secondary level, three districts have recorded the highest enrollment viz, Kangra, Shimla and Mandi.

CONCLUSION

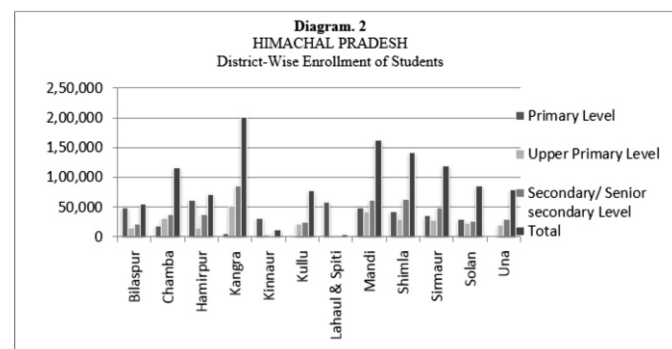
It is gratifying to note that Himachal Pradesh giving priority to the education sector and spending a very high proportion of GSDP on education. Himachal Pradesh witnessed a decadal growth rate lower than the corresponding national average during the period under study signifying thereby an impressive achievement in its efforts towards controlling the population growth rate. The expansions of schools went up and enrollments have improved considerably. The study reveals that the enrollments of the girls in primary schools have grown up continuously proportionally to boys. The absolute number of teachers in high schools increased from 26,854 in 2002 to 28,641 in 2013. There was a notable disparity in the enrollment pattern at district level. There were five districts out of the state, where the highest enrollment was more than one lack namely Kangra, , Shimla, Mandi, Sirmour and Chamba.

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Source: Census of India



Source: Education Department, Himachal Pradesh

Table. 1
HIMACHAL PRADESH
Trends in Number of Schools/Institutions, Total Enrollment and Girls' Enrolment 2002-2013

Types of Institutions	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Primary Level											
No. of Schools	10,650	10,651	10,652	10,613	10,607	10,734	10,738	10,751	10,767	10,771	10,739
Total Enrolment (in 1000)	618.5	589.7	565.7	543.8	523.6	492.4	466	440.8	422.7	402.4	380.7
Girls Percentage in Total	49.03	49.04	49.07	49.24	49.24	49.59	49.38	49.77	50.14	50.32	50.52
Teachers in Educational Institutions	25,899	27,078	25,941	25,346	25,346	26,974	26,461	27,181	26,199	25,817	25,239
Middle Level											
No. of Schools	1,814	2,192 1	2,193	2,112	2,168	2,299	2,291	2,339	2,303	2,269	2,317
Total Enrolment (in 1000)	407.7	419.9	366.2	353.6	335.5	347.2	336.6	327.1	311.7	280.9	262.8
Girls Percentage in Total	47.83	47.90	48.72	48.71	49.78	49.49	48.81	49.22	49.02	49.41	49.61
Teachers in Educational Institutions	25,941	17,685	18,331	18,557	20,036	22,392	21,800	21,989	21,859	21,003	9,206**
Higher Level											
No. of Schools	1,524	4,580	1,647	1,654	1,851	2,047	2,058	2,100	2,094	2,126	2,126
Total Enrolment (in 1000)	362.8	374.3	383.8	320.7	366.7	342.4	408.2	394.6	400.4	440.3	406.3
Girls Percentage in Total	46.02	46.75	46.31	47.00	48.60	47.63	47.05	49.62	48.98	48.41	49.23
Teachers in Educational Institutions	26,854	26,854	1,646	-	25,246	25,297	27,563	27,400	25,375	23,472	28,641
Colleges of General	40	40	41	47	65	68	67	67	67	67	68
Universities	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	5
Medical Colleges	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
B.ed Colleges	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4
Sanskrit Institutions	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Teachers Training Schools (JBT)	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Engineering College	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4

Table. 2
HIMACHAL PRADESH
District-Wise Enrollment of Students 2011-2012

Districts	Primary Level	Upper Primary Level	Secondary/ Senior Secondary Level	Total
Bilaspur	19200	14,800	21,100	55,100
Chamba	48,200	30,500	37,300	1,16,000
Hamirpur	18,800	15,300	37,000	71,100
Kangra	62,300	52,600	86,100	2,01,000
Kinnaur	5,100	3,300	3,100	11,500
Kullu	31,700	20,900	24,600	77,200
Lahaul & Spiti	1,900	1,100	1,500	4,500
Mandi	59,000	42,000	61,400	1,62,400
Shimla	48,100	30,000	62,800	1,40,900
Sirmaur	42,700	27,500	49,400	1,19,600
Solan	35,800	22,700	26,700	85,200
Una	29,600	20,200	29,300	79,100
Totals	4,02,400	2,80,900	4,40,300	11,23,600

Source: Education Department, Himachal Pradesh